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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF PHOSPHITYLATION AGENTS

(57) Abstract: A process for the preparation of a compound of formula $R^1-Y^1-P(NR^2R^3)_2$ is provided. The process comprises reacting a compound of formula PX_3 with a compound of formula HNR^2R^3 to form a compound of formula $X-P(NR^2R^3)_2$; and reacting the compound of formula $X-P(NR^2R^3)_2$ with a compound of formula R^1-Y^1-H in the presence of a hydrocarbon solvent to form the compound of formula $R^1-Y^1-P(NR^2R^3)_2$. R^1 represents a phosphorus protecting group; R^2 and R^3 each independently represent an alkyl, preferably a C_{1-6} alkyl, group, or R^2 and R^3 are joined, together with the N to which they are attached, to form a 5-7 membered ring; Y^1 represents O or S, preferably O; and X represents a halogen, preferably Cl. The preferred solvent is toluene.

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